

Bishop Sheen: Much More Than Television Personality

MISSIONARY WITH A MIKE—The Bishop Sheen Story, by Rev. Daniel P. Noonan, St. Bridget's, San Francisco. Pageant Press, New York, N.Y., \$5.

Missionary With a Mike: The Bishop Sheen Story examines the various aspects of the career and personality of the truly enigmatic and charismatic Fulton J. Sheen.

Drawing extensively from Sheen's own writings and speeches as well as from articles on him by the press and comments by friends and with a

liberal sprinkling of examples of the Bishop's quick wit and countless anecdotes about him, Father Noonan presents a well-rounded portrait of the Bishop's private and public life; his relations with the United States presidents from Roosevelt to Johnson; the countless stars from the entertainment world who are his close friends and converts; his connections with such Catholic eminences as Cardinals Cushing and Spellman and Popes Pius XII, John XXIII, and Paul VI; and his work with the ordinary people as priest, confessor and fund-raiser.

Above all, Sheen is more than the striking figure on the TV screen dressed in black cassock and flowing red cape with a large gold cross on his chest, easily and wittily discussing the problems and concerns of life.

The Bishop is a brilliant theologian, and his comprehension of the tenets of Catholicism—formidable even as a young man in college—are well-known through his many books and preachings and amply attested to by his long list of famous

converts such as Henry Ford, Clare Boothe Luce, and Fritz Kreisler.

The Bishop's contributions, however, have not been confined to the field of religion alone. Some of his most important writings have been against communism. Even in the early 1930s, when it was neither fashionable nor national policy to be against communism, Sheen perceived the threat to world security that this ideology pre-

sented. Perhaps better than anyone else of his time, Sheen saw through to the heart of the danger—its atheism. But he was careful to distinguish between the philosophy and the person, between communism and the communist. The doctrine is inherently evil because it denies truth as an absolute and hence leads to amorality; the person, however, is neither good nor bad in himself but rather some-

brought back to the path of God with all the moral commitments that that entails.

Another side of Sheen which is not known outside of Catholic circles is his work for the poor and needy. As national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Catholic Church's foreign missions service, Bishop Sheen has been able to use his extraordinary talents and personality to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars

to feed the hungry, the disadvantaged, and care for the lepers particularly in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Recently appointed Bishop of the diocese of Rochester, N.Y., Sheen now faces a new role in life away from the spotlight of the famous and in the capacity of one who must "confess, forgive, bury, comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable."

(From San Francisco Monitor)

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New Reading For Our Times

Norm and Context in Christian Ethics ed. by Paul Ramsey and Gene Outka (Scribners; \$7.95). Fourteen Protestant and Roman Catholic theologians and ethicists make substantial contributions to this symposium on the current situation in the field of Christian ethics. A variety of positions and backgrounds are represented as are citations to important treatments of Christian ethics, both classical and contemporary—a valuable sourcebook for the student and clergy in particular.

Changing Man ed. by Kyle Hasselden and Philip Hefner (Doubleday; \$4.95). A superior collection which originally appeared in Christian Century magazine of a series of articles which was a dialogue between five scientists and five theologians on the interrelationship of evolutionary theory and

Christian faith, this book presents an important theme, ideal as supplemental reading for students of theology.

Is the Last Supper Finished? by Arthur Vogel (Sheed; \$3.95). For the great majority of Catholics, the Eucharist remains, instinctively, the center of their spiritual lives. The author of this book explains why that instinct is correct. Not merely a symbol, he shows the Eucharist is a reality which enables Christians to participate in a very real way in the life of the human community; it is a giving of oneself to humanity as well as a receiving of Christ.

The Catholic Left: The Crisis of Radicalism Within the Church by James Colainni (Chilton; \$5.95). In a scrapbook of the phenomena of religious dissent, the author (from Ramparts magazine) has collected bits and pieces snipped from various news stories which illustrate the existence of a "radical" element within the Church.

way of learning that is best for him will not be penalized. "This book proposes such a system and it is a revolutionary one."

BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD by Dr. Haim G. Ginott (Macmillan; \$4.95). All parents want children to be happy and secure, no parent wakes up in the morning and deliberately plans to make his child's life tense, fearful, and unhappy. But despite the best intentions, this is all too often what happens. This book has an ambitious purpose: to make life between parent and child less irritating and more rewarding. It presents a new approach to conversation with children, praise and criticism, expression of anger, achievement of independence, and assumption of responsibility in all matters of importance in a child's life.

Movies

- Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Office of Motion Pictures:
- Paramount—"Bandolero" (no rating available)
 - Regent—"Green Berets" (rating unavailable)
 - Cinema—"Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned)
 - Little—"Elvira Madigan" (Adults)
 - Monroe and Coronet—"Theresa and Isabelle" (Condemned)
 - Riviera—"Dr. Doolittle" (Family)
 - Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)
 - Loew's—"The Detective" (Objectable in part for all)
 - Stoneridge—"The Thomas Crown Affair" (Objectable in part for all)
 - Stutson—"Private Navy of Sgt. Farrell" (Adults, adolescents)
 - Panorama—"The Odd Couple" (Adults)
 - Fine Arts—"The Female" (rating unavailable)
 - Towne—"Yours, Mine and Ours" (Family)
 - Lynn—"Bonnie and Clyde" (Adults, with reservations); "Sweet November" (Objectable in part for all)
 - Stutson—"The One and Only Original Genuine Family Band" (Family)
 - Warning—"Thoroughly Modern Millie" (Family)

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A VACATION REMINDER

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A transparency is something which admits the passage of light and allows a clear view within. By itself an object may be dull and lifeless, but with the passage of light it takes on a new and beautiful dimension, a whole new depth and character. If, however, something is blocking the complete diffusion of light, a distorted image is transferred. Is something distorting your image? Can others see through you? If so, what do they see—emptiness, fear, lack of faith, or do they see the beauty of Christ?

So often we are reminded that, through faith, we must see Christ in others. But sadly, we so often forget the reverse; that others are looking for Christ in us. The mission of the Church, the Sacrament of Salvation, and all of her members is primarily designed to manifest Christ's message by words and deeds and to communicate His grace to the world. You are the Church! You are the People of God! How are you carrying out this mission?

Are you blocking His image in you by your selfishness and disinterestedness or are you endeavoring to empty yourself, seeking to carry out His will in your life that you may be a fit instrument for the light and grace of His love to shine through? How often do you recall being disappointed by the poverty of the human medium through which you have sought to find Christ? Are others then, disappointed at your spiritual poverty? You say you are but poor human material yet it remains your task to be the vehicle of the transmission of Christ's word and sacraments, of His presence through the centuries and throughout the world.

The royal priesthood of the laity! What a privilege! Through the mysterious workings of the Mystical Body, your growth in Christ and His manifestation in you to others will reach around the world to souls in need. No longer can we use excuses. No longer can we sit back complacently and say the work of making Christ known and loved is the exclusive task of the clergy. It is your work! There are innumerable opportunities open to you. You will grow personally through the sacraments and prayer. The testimony of your lives and good works, done in a supernatural spirit, has tremendous drawing power. You can manifest Christ in your homes among your families, by participation in parish and community endeavors, also you can fulfill your missionary vocation as a Christian by your prayers and continued generous sacrifices for the needy ones of the world.

It remains, therefore, the duty of each of us to make the sacramental veil less opaque. Our Christian responsibility is to make Christ present, to embody His saving action in the world? Are we not unworthy to be the instruments of so great a work? For in the depths of our souls, each of us know that we have placed obstacles in the way of God manifesting Himself to His people. This knowledge and above all the admission of our unworthiness will help us to give to our lives and actions the transparency of a sacrament, wherein Christ is revealed.

Summertime is vacation time, but please don't let vacation halt your generous sacrifices for the missions. Your remembering will enable the sun to shine in many hearts. Act now! Pray and sacrifice! Thank you!

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to: Right Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local diocesan director, Rt. Rev. Mgr. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York 14604

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